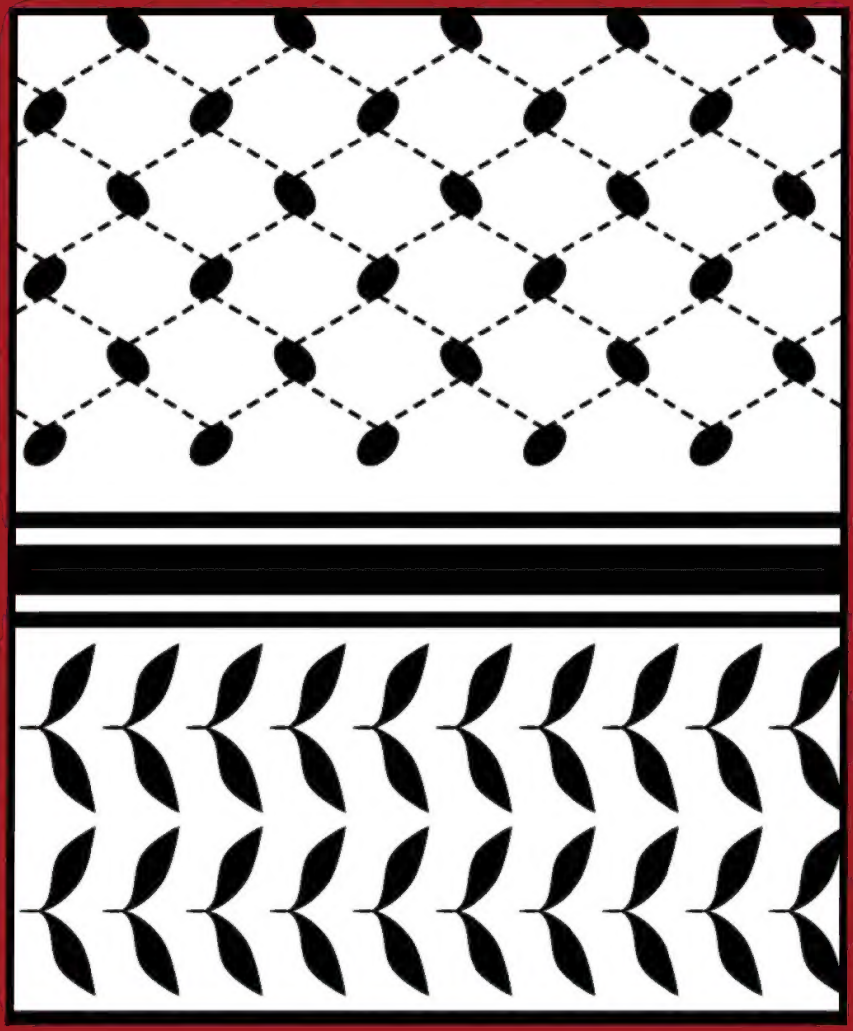
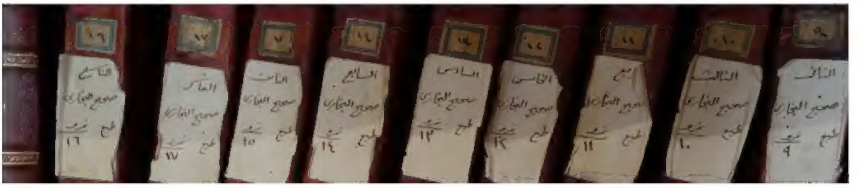
EXPOSING EX LIBRIS



Librarians & Archivists
with Palestine
June 2024

The Origins of Ex Libris:

A History of Profiting from Dispossession and Land Theft



During the Nakba of 1948, Zionist forces violently displaced and dispossessed 750,000 Palestinians of their land, property, and belongings to create the state of Israel (1). Despite United Nations Resolution 194, which declares that "refugees wishing to return to their homes [...] should be permitted to do so"(2), Palestinian refugees are still prohibited from returning to their land, from which Israel forcibly removed them.

al-Maliha is one of more than 500 Palestinian villages that Israel ethnically cleansed during the Nakba (1). Today, Israel calls this stolen land 'Malha Technology Park' or 'Jerusalem Technology Park'; this is where Ex Libris (Clarivate) is headquartered.

قرية المالحة كما تبدو للناظر إليها من مسافة ما وراء خط سكة الحديد (تموز/يوليو ـ آب/أغسطس ١٩٤٤) [المالحة]

Photograph overlooking the northwest area of al-Maliha, c. 1944.
Scanned from "All That Remains" by Dr. Walid Khalidi On December 25, 1999

Ex Libris, a Timeline:

How Ex Libris Gained its Quiet Monopoly

1983

ALEPH, an integrated library system (ILS) is built by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, then transferred to a for-profit venture: Aleph-Yissum. (3)

1986

Ex Libris is organized to market ALEPH, an integrated library system (ILS) developed by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. (3)

1980s

Israeli state funding is provided to libraries who adopt ALEPH; this leads to Ex Libris' ILS monopoly in all seven Israeli universities. (4)

1995

Ex Libris and Aleph-Yissum merge; Ex Libris is now in use by 200 libraries internationally. (3)

2015

ProQuest acquires Ex Libris. (5)

2020

An American Libraries report states that Ex Libris is the leading provider of tech for academic and research libraries, with nearly 3,000 installations of Alma, Aleph, and Voyager integrated library systems, in addition to other products. (6)

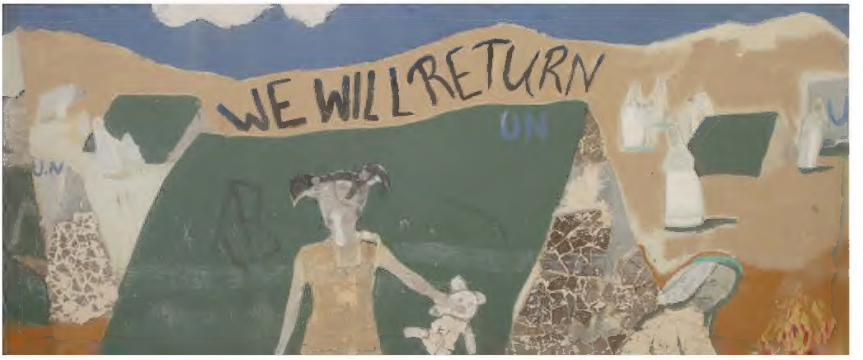
2021

Clarivate acquires ProQuest (which also owns Innovative). (7)

Ex Libris is Complicit

When Libraries Invest, We Become Complicit, Too

When we invest in Israeli companies, we continue "business as usual". By investing, we are giving Israel the greenlight to continue violating international law through their occupation, settler-colonialism, and apartheid. Economic relations with Israel also provide the government with tax revenue that is used to continue oppressing Palestinians. (8)



Ex Libris Products

Don't Think Ex Libris Powers Your Library? Think again.

Ex Libris products include:

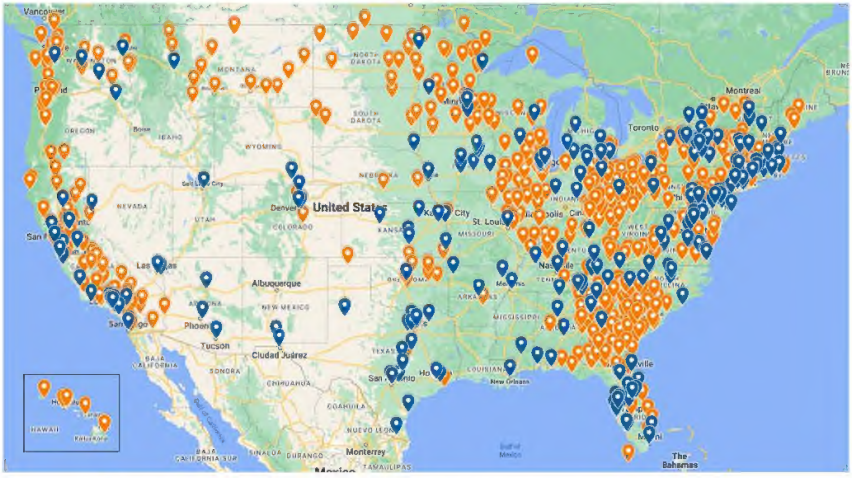
- Alma
- Aleph
- Voyager
- Primo
- Summon
- Leganto
- campusM
- campusM Library
- Rapido
- Esploro
- Converis
- Pivot-RP
- SFX
- SFX Global Knowledge Base
- Serials Solutions
- Ulrich's Serials Analysis System (USAS)
- LISA: Library and Information Science Abstracts
- Ulrichsweb
- EndNote
- RefWorks
- ProQuest/Ex Libris/Clarivate databases

Ex Libris Today

Our Libraries Are Invested in Occupation and Apartheid

Today, Clarivate sells numerous products used across libraries and archives. Ex Libris' monopoly can be felt through investments across nearly 3,000 American academic libraries (6), as well as numerous public and national libraries, including the Library of Congress (9) and the National Library of Medicine (10).

Shameful Mentions: Libraries Invested in Ex Libris



Membership data sourced from: Ex Libris Users of North America. (2024). *ELUNA Membership Directory*. ELUNA. https://el-una.org/about/eluna-membership-directory/

The American Library Association: Invested in Apartheid

Ex Libris (ProQuest) is a corporate donor to the American Library Association; in return, the ALA heavily champions and promotes Ex Libris to its members (11). When we invest in Ex Libris, we materially support Israel's apartheid, colonization, and illegal occupation of Palestine.

Are these the values that library workers stand for?

Why Boycotting Matters

Not a Nickel, Not a Dime, No More Money for Israel's Crimes

Boycotts have long been an effective expression of protest through voluntary abstention from products, organizations, countries, etc. Boycotting was instrumental in ending apartheid in South Africa, which included abstention from South African goods (12), sports (13), and universities (14), as well as companies and organizations that were complicit in South African apartheid.

The Israeli economy is particularly vulnerable to international economic boycotts, due to its dependence on international trade and investment. (8) The Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) Movement pressures the Israeli government to adhere to international law and end its systematic and historic oppression of Palestinians. The BDS Movement calls for the academic, cultural, and economic boycott of Israel until these conditions are met. (15)

As library workers, we can participate in the economic boycott of Israel in many ways, including by boycotting Ex Libris.

Decolonization

Talking the Talk or Walking the Walk?

Decolonization has recently become a topic of conversation in libraries as we begin to acknowledge, investigate, and attempt to undo colonialist practices. It is essential that we understand and act with the knowledge that settler-colonialism is a global project. The historic and ongoing colonization of Turtle Island is deeply connected to Israel's colonization of Palestine. If we are to commit to working against colonization in information organizations across Turtle Island, we must also commit to working against Israel's colonization of Palestine.

Collectively, library workers have the power to effect change in our field. Together, we can stand for values of equity and decolonization, as we stand against apartheid and colonization.

librarians and
archivists with
palestine

Librarians And Archivists With Palestine

Librarians and Archivists with Palestine (LAP) is a network of self-defined librarians, archivists, and information workers in solidarity with the Palestinian struggle for self-determination.

What you can do

Get involved with LAP:

- Check out librarianswithpalestine.org and subscribe to our announcement list.
- Become a member! Join the LAP network by reading through our Unifying Principles and submitting the request form at librarianswithpalestine.org/about/principles.
- Help us build a campaign to boycott Ex Libris.

Engage with your peers and/or colleagues:

- Find members of your organization(s) and form networks of practitioners in solidarity with Palestinians.

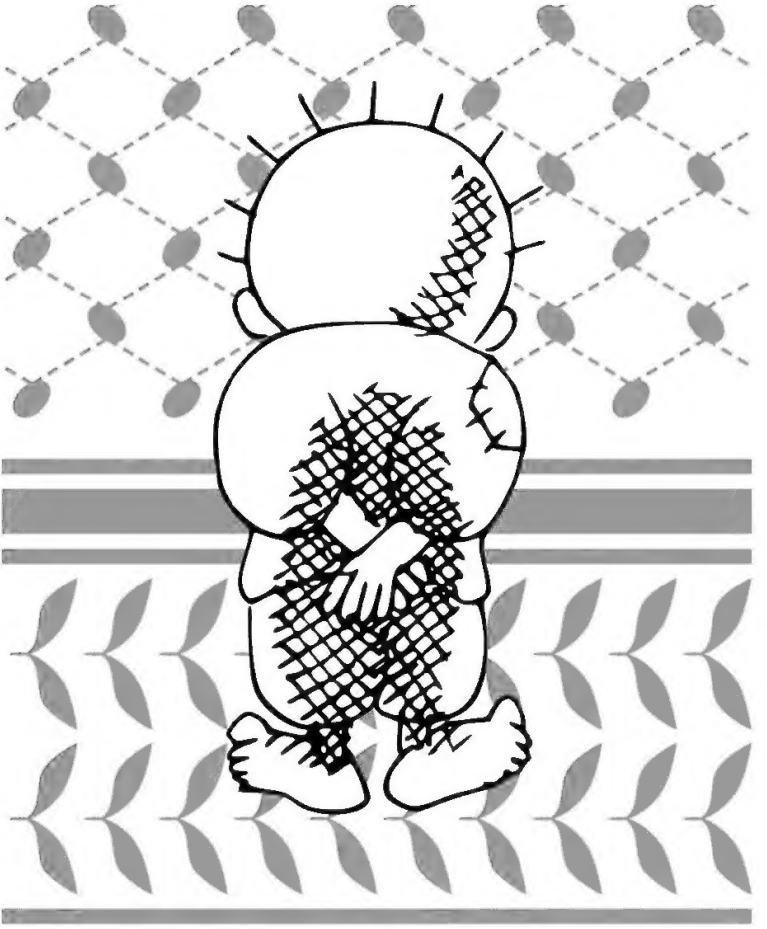


Image credit: Naji al-Ali

Next Steps

Please visit
https://linktr.ee/exlibriszine or scan the QR code for the following:

- References & Further Reading
- Alternate Products
- Librarians & Archivists with Palestine Website

Credit for all non-captioned images:
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